

REMARKS

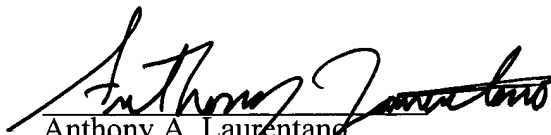
Applicant amends the specification to address minor formal matters, such as introducing appropriate section headers. Applicant also amends the claims to remove multiple dependencies, to provide proper antecedent basis, and to address other matters of form. The foregoing amendments introduce no new matter and are not related to issues of patentability.

Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully in order and requested.

If there are any questions regarding the amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8/02/01

09090588-142401

Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

Please amend claims 1-5, and add new claims 6-9 as follows.

1. (Amended) A fluid filter, ~~especially an oil filter for an internal combustion engine,~~ comprising a filter housing, ~~and~~ a central, approximately tubular component which extends into the interior of the filter, said central component being disposable in the an operating position by engaging a projection on the filter housing and being permanently retained in the filter housing, said component being detachable from said projection, ~~and in this in a~~ disassembly position such that said component is being nondestructively removable from the filter, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the component (6) is mounted rotatably around ~~its~~ a longitudinal axis in the filter housing (2), and a retaining component (10) ~~being~~ arranged in a rotationally restricted manner within the filter housing (2), ~~which said~~ retaining component being arranged to surrounds and fixes the central component (6) ~~by an clamp or locking~~ interference fit so as not to rotate in ~~its~~ the operating position, the central component 6 ~~being~~ rotatable into ~~its~~ the disassembly position when the clamping ~~or locking~~ force of the interference fit is exceeded.

2. (Amended) The filter according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the central component (6) and the retaining component (10) ~~have~~ comprise interacting polygonal contours.

3. (Amended) A fluid filter, ~~especially an oil filter for an internal combustion engine,~~ comprising a filter housing, ~~and~~ a central, approximately tubular component which extends into the interior of the filter, said central component being disposable in the an operating position by engaging a projection located in the filter housing and being permanently retained in the filter housing, said component being disengageable from said projection and nondestructively removable ~~in this disassembly position~~ from the filter when disposed in a disassembly position, characterized in that wherein the central

component (6) is retained in a positive manner by a retaining component (10) which is screwable onto the filter housing (2), the retaining component (10) forming the projection.

4. (Amended) A fluid filter according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the retaining component (10) is designed as comprises a combination component which includes a support body ~~such as a base plate (11), and multiple functional elements being located on the support body such as valve assemblies (5) with valve bodies, or a clip fixing the central component (6), or a projection or screw holes fixing the central component (6).~~

5. (Amended) A fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional elements characterized in that each comprise one or more screw holes ~~is located in a depression (16) accommodating the screw head.~~

6. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a valve body.

7. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a clip for fixing the central component.

8. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a projection for fixing the central component.

9. (New) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a screw hole for fixing the central component.

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